

*** INFANT IMMUNIZATION WEEK ***

WHEREAS, vaccines are among the 20th Century's most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death; and

WHEREAS, childhood immunizations are universally recognized as one of the most cost effective means of preventing early childhood diseases such as polio, measles, mumps, rubella, rotavirus, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenza type b, and chickenpox; and

WHEREAS, these diseases can cause serious, life-long side effects including physical disability, blindness, hearing loss, mental retardation, or death; and

WHEREAS, the suffering or death from a vaccine-preventable disease is an unnecessary human tragedy; and

WHEREAS, despite recent gains in infant immunization coverage, more than 27 percent of the Arizona's two-year-olds are still not fully immunized against infectious diseases to which they are especially vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, children need a series of vaccinations, starting at birth, to be fully protected against 14 potentially serious diseases; and

WHEREAS, the support and promotion of immunization requires strong partnerships based on common goals among federal, state, and local governments, schools, health care professionals, and community members; and

WHEREAS, immunizations are one of the most important ways parents can protect their children against serious diseases; and

WHEREAS, the week of April 19-26, 2008 has been declared National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) to help promote that children have all their vaccinations by the age of two; and

WHEREAS, Infant Immunization Week focuses local, state and national attention on the importance of proper immunization for infants and toddlers 24 months and under;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim April 19-26, 2008 as

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and encourage public and private health care providers, parents, and children's caregivers in this state to advance the health of children by ensuring early and on-time immunization against vaccine preventable childhood diseases.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

G O V E R N O R

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this seventh day of April in the year Two Thousand and Eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-second.

ATTEST:

Secretary of State